

Minutes

RI Justice Commission

Policy Board Meeting

September 23, 2004

One Capitol Hill

Conference Room A

Providence, RI

MEMBERS/DESIGNEES PRESENT:

Colonel Steven Pare, Chair

Attorney General Patrick Lynch

Presiding Justice Joseph Rodgers

Jerry Coyne, for Attorney General Lynch

Public Defender John Hardiman

Stephen King representing Chief Justice Williams

David Tassoni, representing Chief Judge Jeremiah

Director A.T. Wall

Dr. Gregory Hayes, representing Dr. Nolan

Gary Alexander, representing Jane Hayward

Jonathan Houston, Justice Assistance

Chief J. David Smith, RI Police Chiefs Association

Sharon Conard Wells

Warren Hurlbut

Deb DeBare

Solangel Rodrigues

RI JUSTICE COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT:

Tom Mongeau, Executive Director

Gina Caruolo

Joseph Persia

Elizabeth Gilheeney

Kathleen Loiselle

1. Welcome

**Colonel Pare welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 8:23 AM.
Introductions were made.**

2. Approval of June 11, 2004 Minutes

**Steve King requested that on Page 7, 4th paragraph, last line, that the
word Superior be deleted and the word Supreme be added.**

There being no other changes, Jonathan Houston made a motion:

**TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 11, 2004
MEETING AS CORRECTED.**

Jerry Coyne seconded the motion, which was unanimously passed.

3. Discussion/Approval of FY 04 Juvenile Formula Grant & FY 04 Title V Grant

Elizabeth Gilheeney distributed copies of Request for Proposals for the FY 04 Juvenile Formula grant and FY 04 Title V grant. She advised that 2 applications were received for the FY 04 Juvenile Formula Grant, which had \$90,000 in available monies. The Socio Economic Development Center for Southeast Asia requested \$52,997 and the JJAC is recommending funding at the amount requested, and the Youth in Action requested \$45,000 and was also recommended by the JJAC for funding at the amount requested.

The FY 04 Title V grant also received 2 applications. Channel One – Central Falls/City of Central Falls requested \$58,050, and the Town of Coventry Department of Human Service requested \$24,580. The JJAC recommended funding both applications at their requested amounts subject to site visits and monitoring.

Ms. Gilheeney requested funding approval for both the FY 04 Juvenile Formula Grant and the FY 04 Title V Grant.

There being no discussion, Director Wall made a motion:

**TO APPROVE THE JJAC’S FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE FY 04 JUVENILE FORMULA GRANT.**

The motion was seconded by David Tassoni and was unanimously passed.

Public Defender Hardiman made a motion:

**TO APPROVE THE JJAC'S FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE FY 05 TITLE V GRANT AS DISCUSSED.**

Sharon Conard-Wells seconded the motion, which was unanimously passed.

4. Discussion & Approval of FY 04 Victims of Crime Act Grants

Joseph Persia advised that in the spring of 2004 an RFP was advertised for \$1,697,640.00 in FY 04 VOCA funds. He added that the VOCA Advisory Committee received 32 applications for review. The VOCA Committee reviewed all the applications and ended their review process in the July. Mr. Persia stated that the Policy Board recommended 32 applications for funding and approval.

Mr. Persia noted that the following applications are new this year:

Center for Hispanic Policy & Advocacy helps new Latino arrivals.

Institute for Study and Practice of Nonviolence - a nonviolence

streetworkers program in Providence.

RI Supreme Court – Judicial Technology Center provides victims of crime with a Victims Assistance Portal.

Sexual Assault & Trauma Resource Center will make available a Law Enforcement Advocate for the City of Providence.

The Tri-Town Community Action Agency provides a Victims Assistance Program.

Mr. Persia stated that all the other applications are a continuation of previous funding.

There being no discussion, Sharon Conard-Wells made a motion:

**THAT THE VOCA FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE FY 04 VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT GRANT BE
APPROVED AS PRESENTED.**

The motion was seconded by Judge Rodgers and passed with 7 votes and 6 abstentions noted.

Colonel Pare stated that he will telephone those members not present to gain a quorum for the vote.

5. Discussion & Approval of FY 04 Project Safe Neighborhoods Program Budget Adjustments

Gina Caruolo discussed the need to revisit the administrative cost allocation of the FY 04 Project Safe Neighborhood grant. She noted that it was previously approved that the RI Justice Commission use its administrative monies to fund crime prevention grants. Ms. Caruolo noted that with additional budget planning and because the grant has been reduced this year, it has become necessary to reserve these funds strictly for the RI Justice Commission's administrative costs. She added that it is perfectly acceptable to use these funds in this way. Following her comments, Ms. Caruolo asked that the FY 04 Project Safe Neighborhoods budget be amended to allow the allocation of administrative costs to the Justice Commission.

There being no other discussion, Jonathan Houston made a motion:

**TO APPROVE MODIFICATIONS TO THE
FY 04 PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS
BUDGET TO ALLOW THE ALLOCATION OF
\$23,200 FOR THE RI JUSTICE COMMISSION'S
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.**

**The motion was seconded by Public Defender Hardiman and passed with one abstention noted by Attorney General Lynch. **

6. Indirect Costs

Tom Mongeau advised that after discussion at the last meeting, Colonel Pare asked him to draft a policy on Indirect Costs on behalf of the Rhode Island Justice Commission. As a result, Mr. Mongeau drafted the following: Each request for Indirect Costs will be entertained by the Policy Board on a “case by case basis. Any sub-grantee wishing to budget for Indirect Costs will need to provide justification for the expense.

There being no discussion, Director Wall made a motion:

**THAT THE LANGUAGE REGARDING
INDIRECT COSTS BE ACCEPTED AS
PRESENTED.**

The motion was seconded by Deb DeBare and was unanimously passed.

7. Discussion of Quorum Issues

Tom Mongeau discussed the problem the Policy Board has had

regarding reaching a quorum at meetings. He added that Colonel Pare asked him to research and draft a new policy with respect to the quorum issue. Mr. Mongeau noted that he had researched the issue and found that it is clearly stated in the statute that a quorum shall consist of a majority of the Policy Board's membership. He noted that proposed legislation would seek to change the quorum practice with the following language, "If a board member is absent two (2) consecutive policy board meetings, that board position shall be considered vacant at the next meeting for the purpose of a quorum". The legislation also seeks to reduce the Policy Board from 32 to 21 members. The legislation relates to Separation of Powers, which passed the Senate on June 16, 2004 and has been referred to the House Committee on Separation of Powers. Mr. Mongeau stated that because there has been no passage of the legislation, the Policy Board will retain its past practice of a quorum being a majority of the membership.

Sharon Conard-Wells commented that it would be more desirable to have scheduled meetings.

Gina Caruolo noted that the Policy Board generally meets 3 times a year, in January, June and September.

8. New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

8. Adjourn

There being no other business to discuss, Sharon Conard-Wells made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Director Wall and was unanimously passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Kathleen M. Loiselle
Recording Secretary**

Approved:

**Colonel Steven M. Pare
Chair**

Approved:

Thomas H. Mongeau

RIJC Executive Director